



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584
Fax: 406.457.8990

For immediate release

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Contact: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Administrator, 406-457-8926
Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, 406-457-8908

Public Invited to Comment on East Helena Superfund Soil Proposal

The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is accepting public comments on proposed regulations that would govern the displacement and disposal of soil in the East Helena Superfund area.

The purpose of the regulations is to protect the public health and control pollution by protecting soil clean-up work that has been completed in and around the Superfund site.

Under the regulations, anyone planning to displace or dispose of more than one cubic yard (about half a pickup load) of soil within the site would need to get a permit. The permits would be available free of charge from the Lead Education and Abatement Program (LEAP) of the health department in East Helena City Hall.

People involved with displacing and disposing of potentially contaminated soils would need to be certified (at no cost to them) by LEAP. Contaminated soil would need to be disposed of at a site approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The regulations would apply to all land-use activities that disturb soil in the Superfund area

A public hearing on the proposed regulations will be held Oct. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the library of the East Valley Middle School, 400 N. Kalispell. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting.

Residents also may mail comments to Kathy Moore, Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, 316 N. Park Ave., Helena MT 59623; or send them by e-mail to kmoore@co.lewis-clark.mt.us.

The public comment period will end Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.

A copy of the regulations, as well as a map showing the administrative boundaries of the Superfund area, is available online at www.LewisandClarkHealth.org or by calling the Lead Education and Abatement Program at 457-8583.

*The mission of the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department is to
improve and protect the health of all county residents.*

Soil in East Helena was contaminated with lead and arsenic by the Asarco lead smelter, which operated there from 1888 until 2001. The EPA and the health department have been working to clean up the soil since 1991.

But, according to the EPA in its Record of Decision for the Superfund site, “lead in the environment cannot be completely eliminated or contained.” In some cases, contaminated soil remains in place or is capped with clean soil.

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